

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

3-12-1961

Erling S. Jorgensen Calls for cooperation on ETV Project

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Erling S. Jorgensen Calls for cooperation on ETV Project" (1961). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 895.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/895>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

3/12/61

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Dr. Erling S. Jorgensen, director of the Montana Educational Television Project, has called upon every teacher and every school to help find out how television can best be used to improve education in Montana.

Dr. Jorgensen makes the plea for cooperation in "Television and Montana Schools," the lead article in the latest issue of Montana Education, quarterly publication of the Montana Education Association.

The article describes the effective use of television that Dr. Jorgensen saw in the Anaheim, Calif., public schools. He tells of a 45-minute class in Spanish, which combined a television lesson with classroom instruction, during which not a single word of English was spoken by students, classroom teachers or television teacher. "This was the sixth week of classes for 70 fifth graders!" he remarks.

The Anaheim schools have abundant financial resources, but television is proving itself in schools of more modest means, too, according to the article. The author points to Wilber, Neb., population 1,358, with 167 elementary students and 134 high school students. Wilber's schools appear to be typical of many in Montana, he comments, and Wilber is finding television a very important part of its elementary classes - and doing so economically.

Dr. Jorgensen asks if the experience of schools using instructional television effectively can be applied in Montana, where a critical shortage of teachers for its widely separated and isolated schools demands that the usefulness of teachers be distributed over greater numbers and greater areas. He concludes that instructional TV offers a means of meeting this demand, as it is doing in many other states.

(more)

He says television can be used in Montana to educate more widely and more deeply. He adds that the old fear that greets every new invention, that man will be replaced by the machine, has long since been proven groundless in hundreds of schools where television has been introduced. "The classroom teacher will always be essential to the application of instruction received by other means, be it from books, films, or television," he writes.

Dr. Jorgensen suggests that Montana make a start by using the extensive systems of television distribution already operating in the state. There are eight commercial TV stations in Montana in addition to studio facilities at Montana State University and Montana State College. A vast network of booster stations, cable systems and micro-wave relay facilities distribute signals from Montana TV stations to viewers all over the state. This system might be used as a beginning means of reaching classrooms with a minimum schedule of instructional television, he says.

"Looking to the future, we must study the uses others are making of television, ask questions, and try it," Dr. Jorgensen writes. "These are the exiting challenges being explored by the Montana Educational TV Committee, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the University of Montana, and the Montana ETV Project. We invite the participation of every teacher and school in our efforts to learn how television can best be used to improve the education offered to Montana citizens."

#